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Security Council

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Letter dated 27 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I write pursuant to Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to inform the Security Council that the Egyptian armed forces are carrying out a number of necessary and proportionate air strikes against terrorist organizations in Libya. In so doing, they are exercising their legitimate right to self-defence and acting in coordination with the national army of Libya. This action is being taken in the light of intelligence indicating that the organizations carried out a series of armed terrorist attacks within Egyptian territory, attacks that originated on Libyan territory. Most recently, on 26 May 2017, they targeted innocent Egyptian civilians in the town of Minya, in southern Egypt. That incident constitutes an attack on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Egypt.

These measures are being taken in accordance with the relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolution 2292 (2016) concerning the situation in Libya, which urges Member States to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stresses that the defensive strikes are directed solely at the members and positions of terrorist organizations, and not at the State of Libya. It is important to bear in mind the prevalent security situation in Libya: in certain areas of the country, conditions have deteriorated and the State has lost control. Terrorist organizations have thus gained an opportunity to attack Egypt from those areas.

(*Signed*) Amr Abdellatif **Aboulatta**
Ambassador

17-11103 (E) 050717 050717

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